

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 ORM-03 SR-02 SS-20 L-03 PRS-01

SCA-01 VO-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 334

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

S E C R E T TAIPEI 7171

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TW, CH, UR

SUBJECT: TUAPSE SEAMEN

REF: A. STATE 231731; B. TAIPEI 778, FEB 17, 1972 (NOTAL);

C. TAIPEI 630, FEB 8, 1972

1. EMBASSY HAS NO INFORMATION ABOUT SEVEN REMAINING
TUAPSE SEAMEN IN TAIWAN BEYOND THAT CONTAINED REF B.
ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT RULE OUT POSSIBILITY THAT SOME
OF THE SEAMEN HAVE AGAIN CHANGED THEIR MINDS, WE THINK
IT SAFE TO ASSUME MOST IF NOT ALL OF THEM ADHERE
TO THEIR 1970 REQUEST TO BE REPATRIATED TO USSR.

2. APART FROM THE SEAMEN THEMSELVES, EVENTS IN
TAIWAN SINCE AMBASSADOR'S LAST REPRESENTATION TO
FOREIGN MINISTER CHOW SHU-KAI IN FEBRUARY 1972
(REF C) MAKE US LEERY OF FURTHER US INVOLVEMENT. IN
1972, WE FOUND ROC CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE SOVIET
PROPAGANDA EXPLOITATION BUT WE THOUGHT ROC'S CONCERN
MIGHT CONCEIVABLY BE OVERCOME BY A DESIRE TO EASE
RELATIONS WITH THE USSR IN THE WAKE OF IMPROVED
US-PRC RELATIONS. CONTRARY TO OUR SPECULATION,

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PRESIDENT CHIANG AND THEN VICE PREMIER CHIANG CHOSE

TO MOVE IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION. MORE, IN
UNDERSCORING THEIR ANTI-SOVIET STANCE, THEY ALLOWED
IT TO BE UNDERSTOOD IN TAIWAN THAT CHOW-SHU-KAI,
WITH WHOM WE HAD BEEN DEALING ON THE TUAPSE, LOST
HIS PORTFOLIO IN PART BECAUSE OF HIS ADVOCACY OF MORE
FLEXIBLE POSTURE TOWARDS COMMUNIST COUNTRIES OF EASTERN
EUROPE.

3. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE RECOMMEND MOST
STRONGLY THAT USG STAND ASIDE FROM ANY FURTHER INITIATIVE
ON TUAPSE CASE. SUGGEST TOLSTOY FOUNDATION BE TOLD
(A) ITS ASSUMPTION THAT SEAMEN WISH TO COME TO US
DOES NOT APPEAR CORRECT, WE BELIEVE THEY WISH TO GO
HOME; AND (B) USG DOES NOT WISH TO INTERVENE FURTHER
IN MATTER BUT WOULD NOT OBJECT TO TOLSTOY FOUNDATION
PERSONNEL QUERYING ROC EMBASSY WASHINGTON PROVIDED
THEY MAKE CLEAR AT OUTSET THEY ARE ACTING ENTIRELY
ON THEIR OWN WITHOUT USG INSPIRATION OR BACKING.
IF TOLSTOY INITIATIVE SHOULD REVEAL FAVORABLE SHIFT
IN ROC'S POSITION, WE WOULD OF COURSE BE PREPARED
TO OFFER APPROPRIATE FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE.
MCCONAUGHY

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